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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/507,440 | 03/09/2005 | Gerd Ahnert | 588.1035 | 6718 |
| 23280 | 7590 | 02/28/2007 | EXAMINER | |
| DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC 485 SEVENTH AVENUE, 14TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018 | | | BONCK, RODNEY H | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3681 | |

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|----------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS | 02/28/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/507,440 | AHNERT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Rodney H. Bonck | 3681 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 8-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 8-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the amendment received January 29, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 8-10, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Basso(FR 2807481 A1). The Basso device is a twin-clutch system comprising two clutches 40, 41, a clutch cover 46, 47 for each clutch, a clutch release system 44, 45 secured to each cover, and a fastening member 14 that, in conjunction with the projection from plate 49, couples the covers to each other and spaces the covers from one another. The fastening member 14 is a bolt-shaped connecting element. Flywheel 11 forms a housing to which the covers are attached. The clutch of Basso is used in a twin-clutch transmission.

Claims 8-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rispeter et al.('270). The Rispeter et al. device shows a twin-clutch system comprising two clutches 15, 19, a clutch cover 4, 6 for each clutch, a clutch release system 33, 37

and 34,37 secured to each cover, and a fastening member 8 that, in conjunction with the housing 2, couples the covers to each other and spaces the covers from one another. The fastening member is a bolt-shaped connecting element and has two ends, each end connected to a respective cover. Each end of the bolt-shaped connecting element includes a receiving section comprising an annular groove. Each cover is fastened to housing 2. The device of Rispeter can be considered a twin-clutch transmission.

Response to Arguments

The amendment to claim 1 distinguishes over the device of Klein et al.(FR 2810708 A1). Accordingly the rejection based on Klein et al. is withdrawn. The rejection based on Basso(FR 2807481 A1) and the rejection based on Rispeter et al.('270) are still believed proper.

Applicant argues that fastening member 14 does not space clutch covers 46 and 47 from one another and that element 49 is not a fastening member. The examiner disagrees in that fastener 14 in conjunction with element 49 does hold the covers spaced from one another. The claims do not distinguish over this arrangement of Basso. Similarly bolt 8 of Rispeter et al., in conjunction with element 2, spaces the covers 4 and 6. Applicant also maintains that the bolt 8 of Rispeter et al. lacks the claimed receiving sections comprising an annular groove. The examiner disagrees, since the threads at one end of bolt 8 constitute the claimed groove and a groove at the other end receives cover 6.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
February 27, 2007